

THE ROMANIAN-POLISH SEMINAR  
“CENTRAL EUROPE – SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISPARITIES,  
RURAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT”

(September 18, 2008, Bucharest)

The Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy and the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences have a long standing and successful scientific cooperation. Through time, researchers from both sides have been part of joined scientific projects devoted to mutually interesting topics such as: sustainable development of mountain regions, the impact of natural and human processes on mountain regions planning, the role of extreme hydro-meteorological events on mountain slopes and valley bottoms, the ethnical structures and regional development in Central and Eastern Europe, and regional disparities in socio-economic development of rural areas in Poland and Romania.

The Seminar organized by the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy in Bucharest on September 18, 2008 gathered together researchers from both Romanian and Polish Institute of Geography and the Institute of Geography, Slovak Academy of Sciences. The papers presented on this occasion addressed two significant topics of research: rural Romania and Poland – differences and similarities, and Regions and Development – Characteristics and perspectives. The former included scientific analyses of spatial differentiation and changes of Polish agriculture (Roman Kulikowski), types of rural landscapes in Romanian Subcarpathians (Daniela Nancu, Mihaela Persu), development of non-agricultural functions on rural areas during transformation period (Dariusz Swiatek), inter-communal cooperation and regional development in Romania (Radu Săgeată), sustainable development of the Danube Delta rural communities (Nicoleta Damian, Bianca Dumitrescu), Slovak rural municipalities websites (Vladimir Szekely). The latter focused on accessibility as the key problem of regional development in Central and Eastern Europe (Tomasz Komornicki), geographical discontinuities of labour market and unemployment in Romania (Irena Mocanu), economically successful areas in Poland (Jerzy Banski), sustainable tourism in Eastern Romanian Carpathians (Ana Irina Dincă), intraregional peripheries of socio-economic development (Konrad Czapiewski), and foreign investment in Romanian industry and regional development (Claudia Popescu).

The Seminar was a forum for scientific debate and laid the basis for further fruitful cooperation between the Romanian and Polish geographers.

*Claudia Popescu*